New Internet Policy

2074. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced the new Internet Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be implemented;

(c) the estimated number of new employment opportunities likely to be generated as a result thereof; and

(d) whether huge capital investment would be required to implement the new Internet Policy, if so, the source from which it is likely to be made available and whether any target for receiving capital from each source fixed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new Internet policy was announced on 6.11.98. The implementation of the same started on the same day, with the signing of four licence agreements. As on date 36 licences have been signed.

(c) As per the new Internet policy, Government is giving licences to private companies to provide both Internet content and access services as an Internet Service Provider (ISD). Although it is difficult to estimate the number of new employment opportunities, the growth of these services is expected to generate tremendous avenues of employment in the areas of software development, for various types of information services which will be provided on the Internet.

(d) The policy encourages small entrepreneurs to set up their services in a Secondary Switching Area and to provide service only in one town as well as big companies who can set up services all over India. The various sources of funding include promoters own contribution and the external funding by way of equity investment & debt etc. from financial institutions, and other investors. Tie up and arrangements for financial closure would be done by ISP licenses themselves.

Telephone quota for M.Ps

2075. SHRI R.N. ARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone quota provided for Members of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) to open NTC O/O/T in different parts of country is equally maintained;

(b) if so, why Dehradoon CGM office Western Circle, Uttar Pradesh is making delay; and

(c) whether there is any legal stay with reference of quota telephone, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir, the out of turn M.P.(RS) quota has been released by U.P. (West) Telecom Circle, Dehradun and there are no sanctions pending.

(c) Yes, Sir. A stay order had been passed by Hon'ble High Court, Kerala in CMP No. 19939/98 in O.P. No. 11507/98, dated 22nd June, 1998. The stay has since been vacated and Original Petition has been disposed off on 10.12.98 with directions to formulate guidelines in this regard.

Capacity enhancement of telephone exchange in Andhra Pradesh

2076. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans for enhancement of telephone exchange capacity in the districts of Cuddapah, Chittoor and Anantapur in 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the respective waiting list for the telephones in each of these three districts;

(c) the number of new lines which will be released in the current year;

(d) whether Government have not supplied required equipment to complete expansion this year; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?